

London & Middlesex Local Immigration Partnership Settlement Sub-council Thursday, June 24, 2010

Present: Mohamed Al-Adeimi, Ramona Lucan, Brian Roden, Yasmine El-Sabawi, Nancy Santos, Marel Fielding, Jill Tansley and Nina Hamou.

Regrets: Mustafa Zahid, Maysaa Elsayegh and Fadela Ahmed.

Welcome & Introductions

Mohamed thanked the group for their attendance. Yasmine El-Sabawi was introduced as a new member.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting minutes from April 23, 2010 were motioned by Marel seconded by Jill.

May 26 Community Strategy Meeting

Mohammed indicated that the meeting truly was a celebration of the wonderful work completed despite the tight schedules. Momentum was continuous and we were able to meet to submit template. The group felt there was a general positive atmosphere and people were enthusiastic.

Community Feedback

Some feedback that came from the Community Strategy Meeting includes:

- Neighbourhood not interchangeable with community – distinct
- Sponsorship challenges: family class immigrants who fall through cracks due to abandoning by sponsors
- “Role of men” needs to change to be more inclusive. Example: should read ‘roles of children, men and women in the family and community or engagement of men.

Staff have gone through the draft Strategic Plan to ensure consistency with the use of the terms, “neighbourhood” and “community”.

In terms of sponsorship, this concept is already captured under advocacy. Also, it was explained that individuals who are abandoned by a sponsor can qualify for Ontario Works.

The issue that arose due to the priority regarding “the role of men in the community” was due to the missing context of the rationale.

The need for services that engage men was taken as a focus on men to the exclusion of women. By doing this we were making an assumption that it is the men who do not engage, in some cultures it may be the women.

ACTION: Staff to change language to include roles of all family members.

Role of Sub-council in relationship to LMLIP Council

Mohamed gave an overview of the letter sent to the Sub-councils. Key points include that each Sub-council will:

- look at area specific strategies, support progress within the area and report to the Central Council through its chair
- will lead implementation of the recommended strategies while working with current members and engaging new partners as appropriate
- will work actively to support the goals identified in the plan.

Next Steps

Mohamed reminded the group that we will continue to meet in the Fall. This sub-council should continue to be a place to network and to share information. It was recommended that a tool be developed to allow members to network with each other.

ACTION: Staff to look into creating a membership directory with and organizational link and description.

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